

REMARKS

Telephone Interview

Applicant provided details regarding the nature of the invention associated with the application. Examiner considered these details and agreed that the invention described by Applicant during the telephone interview appeared to have merit. Examiner indicated that the claims of the original application provided were vague and/or unclear and did not appear to properly convey the nature of the invention described by Applicant in the original application. As such, Examiner suggested that the claims be reworded or otherwise modified to make them clearer and more distinct without departing from the original scope of the application. Examiner and Applicant agreed that a request for continued examination (RCE) would be an appropriate way to submit such claims.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 to 31, 35 and 39 to 44 are present. Claims 32 to 34 and 36 have been withdrawn. Claims 1 to 7, 14 to 19, 21 to 30 and 35 to 37 have been amended.

Claims 1, 2, 5 to 7, 14, 15, and 17 to 19 have been amended in order to avoid invoking 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. In particular, all instances of phrases such as -- the steps of-- have been deleted. Applicant wishes to note for the record that the amendments are neither narrowing, nor are the amendments being made for a reason substantially related to patentability. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added in the amendments.

Claims 21, 22 and 35 have been amended to recite, "the portable storage device comprises an interface." Previously, the claims had specified, "the portable storage device." The detailed description of the present application specifies, "Referring to Fig. 4,

a method according to the invention of storing key data on a key-server with distributed backup key data stored remotely on portable data storage devices and absent a duplicate key-server is shown. Here a key-server 41 is shown coupled to a plurality of computers 43. Each computer 43 has an interface (not shown) for interfacing with a portable data storage device 44 in the form of a token or a smart card. Of course another portable data storage device is also useful, such as a floppy disk.” Therefore, it is apparent that the amendment to claims 21, 22 and 35 are clearly supported by the original disclosure.

Claims 36 and 37 have been amended to no longer specify the use of a “PCMCIA” token. Instead these claims simply state “token”.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added in the amendments. Claim language has been modified for the purpose of differentiating the claimed subject matter from the disclosures of the cited references. For example, amended independent claims 1 and 14 and their dependent claims now recite, “secure electronic key data” instead of “security data”. This change serves to clarify that the data is not equivalent to conventional unsecure data, and as such a person of skill in the art would not be inclined to, for example, store “secure electronic key data” in a fashion analogous to an archive file of unsecure data.

Additionally, the language of independent claim 27 has been substantially amended to clarify the method and differentiate it from the art.

Applicant looks forward to favourable reconsideration of the present application.

A Petition for Extension of Time is filed concurrently with this response.

**Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit
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Respectfully submitted,



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